Construction of Yatri Niwas at Tourist Spots

2731. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposed to construct Yatri Niwas at certain tourist spots like Nagarjunasagar and Visakhapatnam to attract middle class tourists; and

(b) the budget allocation proposed therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism have sanctioned Yatri Niwases at Nagarjunasagar and Visakhapatnam at a cost of Rs. 35.00 lakhs and Rs. 45.75 lakhs respectively.

Impact of Seat Availability in Aircrafts on Tourist Inflow

2732. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of seats in the Aircrafts to Shimla, Kullu and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh has an adverse effect on the foreign tourists visiting various Hill Stations and Tourists centres in the State during summer causing huge foreign exchange loss to the nation; and

(b) whether the Ministry of Tourism have taken up the matter with the Civil Aviation Ministry in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the measures Government have taken or propose to take to solve this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There appears to have been no adverse effect on the flow of foreign tourists visiting various hill stations including Shimla, Kullu and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh due to non-availability of seats in the Aircraft. Estimated foreign tourist arrivals in Himachal Pradesh and foreign exchange earnings in the country during the last three years is given below :—

Foreign Tourist Arrivals		Foreign Exchange Earnings in India (Rs. in crores)
1997	62527	10725.64
1998	62952	11540.25
1999	66351	12498.93